apricot xi

Many computing applications demand fast manipulation of larger amounts of information than a floppy disk can conveniently handle. Winchester disks provide an answer to this storage problem. The Apricot xi offers Winchester disk technology in the most compact size currently available–the 3.5" fixed disk–in a choice of 5 or 10 Megabyte capacity.

The Apricot xi is a member of the Apricot family—a fully compatible range of personal computers with over 2,000 software packages available.

So no matter how specialised your business or application, you can be sure that there's an Apricot computer and the right software to match your precise needs.

For the serious business user, a practical, multi-function keyboard is a must. And the Apricot xi keyboard incorporates in one package every feature you need to help you get the most from your computer.

The low-profile keyboard has 90 keys divided into a QWERTY layout (which includes cursor, scroll and general editing keys), a calculator keypad and eight function keys. Also included is a system reset button, and a port to connect an optional mouse.

A unique feature of the keyboard is the MicroScreen—a liquid crystal display with two lines of forty characters, and six touch-sensitive keys with integral LED's.

The MicroScreen performs a variety of practical functions:
- It displays the day, date and time as soon as the system is powered up.
- Pressing the calculator function key turns it into a calculator without the need to load a disk.
- It provides labelling of the touch-sensitive keys within an application.
- System prompts.
- A copy of the data as it appears on the CRT display (displaying a line at a time) can be shown

Processing capability

The Apricot xi has as standard two 16-bit processors; the Intel 8086 microprocessor and the Intel 8089 I/O processor. (Available as an option is the 8087 Mathematics co-processor.)

Another processor, a single chip device, type number 6301, is located within the keyboard. This performs keyboard scanning communication between the keyboard and systems unit, and the implementation of a real-time clock/calendar.

Memory

The Apricot xi is fitted with a minimum of 256kbytes of system RAM

It has two expansion slots, one of which accommodates the Winchester controller board. The remaining slot allows the RAM to be expanded up to a maximum of 768kbytes by using the Apricot expansion boards—128k, 256k or 512k.

Disk drives

A major advantage of Winchester disks is that they can hold many times the amount of information that can be stored on the conventional, or floppy disk. And the time it takes to access information on the disk and transfer it to the computer is vastly reduced—around 30 times faster, in fact.

With greater disk storage capacity it is possible to organise your computer system in whichever way it suits you.

Fully integrated accounting suites can be accommodated with ease, for example. Once keyed in, information is automatically updated and processed for all relevant files.

The Apricot xi's operating system, the Manager, together with general software such as integrated accounts, specialist applications software and data files, can all be accommodated on the Winchester disk with room to spare.

Organisation is thus far easier with no need to worry about categorising large numbers of floppy disks. The floppy disk drive in the Apricot xi can be used for essential back-up copies or for little used software and data.

The xi's integral Winchester drive is a 3.5" hard disk unit, with a choice of 5 or 10 Megabyte capacity. They are supplied pre-formatted, complete with standard software.

Additional back-up storage is provided by one, Sony double-sided drive using 3.5" MicroFloppy disks with a storage capacity of 720kbytes.

The disks contain 80 tracks per side, and are soft sectored with 9 sectors per track and 512bytes per sector.

Display features

The Apricot xi drives as standard either a 9" or 12" high resolution monochrome monitor, displaying bit-mapped images with a resolution of 800×400 pixels. The text display area is 80 characters × 25 lines using a character cell of 10×16 pixels.

By fitting a colour board to the expansion slot, compatible colour monitors can be driven displaying 16 colours simultaneously

Printer and communication connections

The Apricot xi has two ports available for connecting printers: a Centronics port for parallel printers and a RS232C port which can be used for serial printers.

A sophisticated RS232C communications port is provided as standard equipment for general purpose communications (via acoustic couplers, modems, direct connection to other micros, etc). It can also be configured for driving various printing devices (serial line printers, plotters, typesetters etc), and can be programmed to operate in both asynchronous and synchronous modes.

Other communications facilities available to the xi are provided by optional expansion boards. The xi is hardware compatible with the Apricot Local Area Network card and Apricot integral modem.

Typical applications that the xi, complete with modem, can be used for are:
1. Emulation of various computer terminals which are used for communicating to mainframes and minicomputers.
2. Access to public and private databases.
3. Transferring files and data between the xi and any other micro or computer with asynchronous modem facilities available.

Transportability

It is possible to transport your Apricot xi by a unique arrangement for attaching the keyboard to the underside of the systems unit. A shutter slides down to cover the disk drives and a carrying handle pulls out from the systems unit for ease of carrying. The monitor also has an integral carrying handle.